

Application No. 10/037,375
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

RE: THE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's allowance of claims 1-21 and 23-29 is respectfully acknowledged.

RE: CLAIM 22

Claim 22 has been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the band of projection has a periphery that defines a portion of a surface of a sphere, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 11, lines 11-19.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendment to claim 22 be approved and entered.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that amended claim 22 patentably distinguishes over USP 4,505,568 ("Asano") under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the top end 6 of the plunger 10a and hooked end 7 of the plunger 11a of Asano et al each correspond to both of the bearing portion and the band of the projection of the

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electromagnetic drive according to the present invention as recited in claim 22.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that according to the present invention as recited in claim 22, the bearing portion supports the movable plunger at an end portion thereof exposed out of the solenoid. And according to the present invention as recited in amended claim 22, the movable plunger includes a band of projection which has a periphery that defines a portion of a surface of a sphere. As recited in claim 22, moreover, the band of projection is formed on a peripheral surface in a vicinity of the end portion of the movable plunger to be fitted into the bearing portion, and the movable plunger is movable in the bearing portion using the band of projection.

By contrast, it is respectfully pointed out that the top end 6 of the plunger 10a and hooked end 7 of the plunger 11a are provided at the tip ends of plungers 10a and 11a to be movable in response to the extension and retraction of plungers 10a and 11a, respectively. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that top end 6 and hooked end 7 in Asano clearly do not support plungers 10a and 11a in the manner of the bearing portion of the present invention as recited in claim 22.

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In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that the top end 6 and hooked end 7 of Asano do not at all correspond to both the bearing portion and the band of projection of the claimed present invention since it is clearly impossible according to Asano for the plunger 10a to be movable in the top end 6 (or hooked end 7) using the top end 6 (or hooked end 7), in the manner of the bearing portion and band of projection of the present invention as recited in claim 22.

Still further, it is respectfully pointed out that neither top end 6 nor hooked end 7 of Asano has a periphery that defines a portion of a surface of a sphere, in the manner of the present invention as recited in amended claim 22.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent 22 clearly patentably distinguishes over Asano, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103, along with allowed claims 1-21 and 23-29.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of all of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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